United Nations A/61/852/Add.6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 April 2007

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 132 and 133

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation for 2005/06	$292,272,400
Expenditure for 2005/06	$238,951,600
Unencumbered balance	$53,320,800

I. Introduction

1. The general report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the administrative and budgetary aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations will contain its views and recommendations on a number of cross-cutting issues. In the paragraphs below, the Committee deals with resources and other items that relate specifically to the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB).

2. The documents used by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the financing of ONUB are listed at the end of the present report.

07-31034 (E) 240407

II. Financial performance report

Mandate and results

3. In its resolution 59/15 B, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $292,272,400 gross ($283,975,300 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The total amount has been assessed on Member States.

4. The mandate of ONUB was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1545 (2004). By its resolutions 1650 (2005) and 1692 (2006), the Security Council extended the mandate of ONUB until 1 July 2006 and until 31 December 2006, respectively. The Security Council subsequently established the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi in its resolution 1719 (2006).

5. The Advisory Committee notes that, in its resolution 61/264, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report on after-service health insurance at its sixty-third session. **Pending a decision by the General Assembly, the Committee recommends that the full amount of other income and adjustments amounting to $15,694,200, as well as a portion of the unencumbered balance amounting to $4,885,300 for ONUB for the period 2005/06, which had been proposed for meeting after-service health insurance liabilities, be credited to Member States.**

Information on financial performance

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 29 March 2007, a total of $804,306,000 had been assessed on Member States with respect to ONUB since its inception. Payments received as at the same date amounted to $793,316,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $10,991,000. As at 26 March 2007, the cash position of the Mission was $120,500,000. Even after keeping an allotment of $23,[illegible]4,000 as an operating reserve for three months, the balance amount available to the Mission is $97,056,000. It should therefore be possible to settle all duly certified claims for troop cost and contingent-owned equipment (see para. 7 below).

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that payments of $55,174,000 had been made to Member States in respect of troop cost reimbursement up to 31 October 2006 and that unliquidated obligations up to 31 December 2006 amounted to $8,441,000. With regard to contingent-owned equipment, the Committee was informed that payments to Member States as at 30 September 2006 amounted to $24,740,000 and the estimated amount owed, as at 31 December 2006, was $14,366,000.

8. With regard to death and disability compensation, the Advisory Committee notes that, as at 31 December 2006, $817,000 had been paid since inception for 24 claims. Unliquidated obligations amounted to $665,000 and six claims remained outstanding. **The Committee trusts that the outstanding claims will be settled expeditiously.**

Utilization of resources

9. Expenditures for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 totalled $238,951,600 gross ($232,959,000 net), which is $53,320,800, or 18.2 per cent, lower than the appropriation of $292,272,400 (see A/61/716, sect. III.A and Corr.1).

10. The Mission's unutilized balance of $53,320,800 is the net effect of savings and additional requirements under various line items. Savings were attributable to the early drawdown of the Mission, mainly for: (a) military observers, troops and civilian police; (b) international and national staff; (c) a lower number of rented premises (64 compared to the budgeted 98) and the cancellation of construction projects; (d) the lower number of generators (82 compared to 334); (e) reduced transport requirements, which included cancellation of the acquisition of vehicles and lower requirements for maintenance and for petrol, oil and lubricants; (f) the discontinuation of letters-of-assist for two helicopters; and (g) reduced communications and information technology requirements and lower related costs. Overexpenditures related primarily to: (a) freight and deployment of contingent-owned equipment as a result of the repatriation of contingents; and (b) official travel (training and non-training) for multidisciplinary assessment missions to plan the drawdown.

11. The table below shows a comparison of actual strength of military and civilian personnel compared to the budgeted figures.

	Posts authorized	*Average strength/ average posts encumbered*	*Number of average vacant posts*	*Actual average vacancy/delayed deployment rate (percentage)*
Military observers	200	170	30	15
Military contingent personnel	5,450	4,636	814	14.9
United Nations police	120	65	55	45.8
International staff	393	311	82	20.9
National staff	392	350	42	10.7

12. Upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that the higher actual vacancy rate for the military observers was attributable to delayed deployment during the first three months (July to September 2005) of the financial period, with significant improvement in October and November 2005 (the actual vacancy rate for the months of October and November stood at 5.0 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively) and the unanticipated drawdown of observers during the remaining months of the financial period. Similar factors apply to the deployment of United Nations police officers.

13. The Advisory Committee was informed that the request of the Government of Burundi for the withdrawal of the Mission had led to an earlier repatriation of military personnel and civilian staff, which triggered reduced requirements under most expenditure classes.

14. The Advisory Committee notes that, following elections, a new set of priorities was set by the Government and that, as a result, the Mission was unable to deliver some of the outputs reflected in the results-based budgetary framework. **The Committee**

notes that ONUB budget proposals had exceeded the Mission's requirements for several budget periods.

Maps

15. The apportionment for operational maps of $118,200 for the period 2005/06 was not utilized as the necessary maps were provided by the Mission's Geographic Information Systems Unit. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Unit was established during the period 2004/05 and consisted of one P-3, two Field Service staff, three United Nations Volunteers and two national staff. The Unit subsequently had the capacity to produce maps that would match the quality of those to be acquired through commercial or letter-of-assist arrangements and at a significantly lower cost. In addition, commercial providers could not produce the specialized types of maps required to meet ONUB operational requirements. During the periods 2004/05 and 2005/06, a total of 4,919 specialized and 5,700 technical topographical maps were produced by ONUB in print and digital formats.

Fuel

16. The budget document indicates that the mission electronic fuel accounting system was implemented in the Mission in April 2006. The Committee was informed that, prior to implementation of the system, fuel consumption controls were not effective. **The Advisory Committee will address the question of fuel consumption controls in the context of its general report on the administrative and budgetary aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations.**

Travel (training and non-training)

17. For the period 2005/06, the apportionment for official travel in the amount of $1,333,000 was exceeded by $461,400, or 34.6 per cent, resulting in total expenditures of $1,794,400. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General had held unplanned meetings to facilitate negotiations involving Government officials and senior representatives of the Forces nationales de libération. Also, increased within-mission travel by civilian staff was required for the unplanned dismantling of military camps vacated by the repatriated ONUB contingents.

18. The Advisory Committee notes from an advance version of the report of the Board of Auditors on peacekeeping operations that the Board of Auditors had observed that the services of a travel agent were utilized without a written agreement. **The Advisory Committee sees the need to maintain firm administrative controls to ensure adequate managerial and financial oversight especially of services provided, especially during a mission's liquidation period.**

Quick-impact projects

19. For the period 2005/06, the apportionment for quick-impact projects in the amount of $1,000,000 was underspent by $22,600, or 2.3 per cent, resulting in total

expenditures of $977,400. The Advisory Committee was informed that 52 quick-impact projects had been completed by 30 June 2006. As of the same date, eight projects were ongoing, of which seven have now been completed and one was abandoned as a result of the misappropriation of funds by the implementing partner (the project coordinator). The Committee was informed that the investigation was complicated since the project coordinator had left Burundi. **The Advisory Committee trusts that an investigation into the misappropriation of quick-impact project funds will be completed expeditiously and expects an update on the matter in the context of the ONUB performance report for 2006/07.**

III. Conclusion

20. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of ONUB for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 is indicated in paragraph 25 of the performance report (A/61/716 and Corr.1). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $53,320,800, as well as other income/adjustments in the amount of $15,694,200 for the period ended 30 June 2006, be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the General Assembly (see also para. 5 above).**

Documentation

- Financial report and audited financial statements for the 12-month period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/61/5), vol. II (advance version)
- Performance report on the budget of the United Nations Operation in Burundi for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 (A/61/716 and Corr.1)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the expenditure report for the period from 21 April to 30 June 2004 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (A/59/736/Add.12)
- General Assembly resolutions 61/264 and 59/15 B
- Security Council resolutions 1719 (2006), 1692 (2006), 1650 (2005), 1641 (2005), 1602 (2005) and 1545 (2004)